**BOXHOLDER** Coleman, MI 48618

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# Coleman Schools COMET NEWS

August 2023

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

2023-2024 Calendar - Open House - Back-to-School Info - Handbook Updates -Enrollment - Job Opportunities - November 2023 Bond Information . . . and more!

# From the Desk of the Superintendent

#### Jennifer McCormack, Superintendent jmccormack@colemanschools.net

Dear Coleman Parents/Guardians, Students and Community,

"At Coleman there's always someone there to offer a helping hand; every time you walk down the hallway someone says 'hello!' You truly can't beat the small class sizes and the relationships we get to build with staff and students daily..."

This is just one of the many testimonials we hear from community, students and staff about Coleman Schools. You receive this Comet News throughout the year because you are part of the Coleman Community Schools district boundaries or a School of Choice family. You are part of our team, our traditions, and part of our students' home away from home. Welcome to any new residents or School of Choice families and welcome back to those who know the amazing opportunities available to every Comet student.

If you are excited to become a Comet but haven't registered yet, come on in. We're happy to answer your questions, give you a tour and share with you what makes Coleman special. Our greatest strength is the talent, knowledge and care of staff members who strive daily for excellence in education and foster a love of our kids.

We hope you will find this newsletter informative as you get started in the year. One of the most important sections is "Bond Information" on page 9, which provides you with information on the November 2023 Proposal.

We look forward to helping your child to find his/her niche in school, to learn about things of interest to him/her and to help them learn to use their skills to achieve his/her own vision of success. Thank you for emphasizing on-time, all-day attendance and a strong, persistent work ethic so they can become leaders within their community and beyond. Here's to a great beginning of the year! #CometPride



#### **CONNECT WITH US!**

**Coleman School** District

@coleman comets

@CometSupt

colemanschools.net

Download our app for free: just search "Coleman Community Schools, MI" in your phone's app store

Sync your phone's calendar with the events on our website!

#### From the Desk of Mrs. Hess

# Jennifer Hess, Jr/Sr High Principal jhess@colemanschools.net

Welcome to August, which means summer is about to end and a new school year is almost upon us. I hope you had a wonderful summer full of time with those you care about, many outdoor adventures, some relaxing moments, and some great memories made.

While our pace was a little slower with the majority of students away, we still forged ahead with some great things for our students. Summer school was a success this year for some of our students: 16 high school students attended and earned back a total of 13.5 credits! The junior high students participated in the Ignite program. They worked on math, reading, writing, e-sports, crafting, and a few outdoor activities. In addition, our food service crew served our summer school students, as well as the Meet Up & Eat Up participants. Also, our custodians and student summer crew have worked hard sprucing up our building so it is ready for this next year. Finally, our office staff has been preparing for another year full of solid educational experiences for our students.

We look forward to working with you as students, parents, and community members to have another successful school year. Your support and partnerships will help us continue to create tomorrow's leaders through academics, arts, athletics, and agriculture.

# **Jr/Sr High Handbook Changes**

We want to communicate some of our latest handbook changes, some of which include adjustments to the cell phone policy, dress code, tardy policy, and the parking lot. Details can be found below, but please refer to the handbook for complete descriptions. The updated 2023-2024 handbook link is now live on our website: <a href="https://5il.co/xoqv">https://5il.co/xoqv</a>. You may also easily find it by scanning the QR code in our Back-to-School article on page 4.

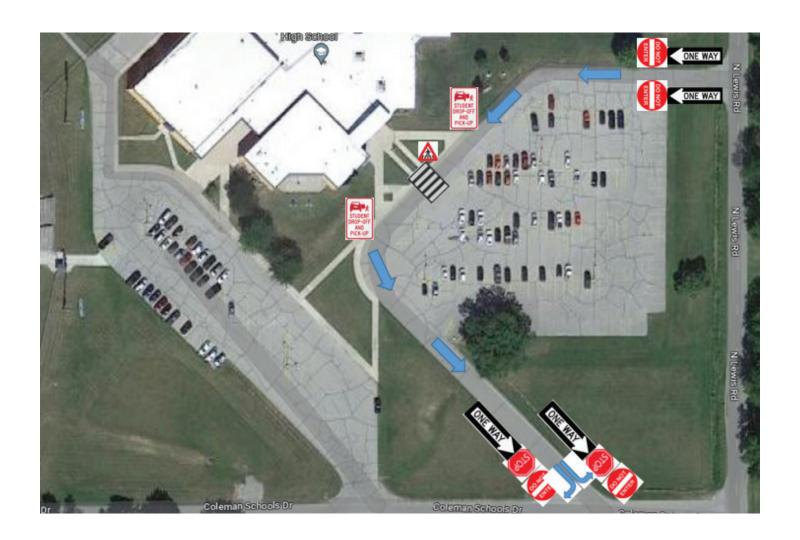
**Dress Code:** All torso areas must be covered by clothing. Hats are allowed, but they must be removed during the Pledge of Allegiance/Star Spangled Banner. Hoods pulled over the head are not permitted. Shirt straps must be a minimum width of three-fingers. No spaghetti straps or tube tops are permitted. Sheer or see-through shirts are not permitted at any time. Coats, ski jackets and any coat-like garment may not to be worn in school. If a student's perception is that the school building is cold, then the student is encouraged to wear a sweater or sweatshirt; always dress appropriately for the weather. Non-clothing items such as blankets, flags, etc. may not be worn at any time during the school day.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Students may have cell phones at school. The phone must be turned off or on silent and in student lockers during the school day. This is in all school spaces, except the ones explained next. High school students ONLY may access and use their devices during their lunch/recess time. If a student needs to make contact with a parent during the school day, with staff permission, the student may ONLY come to the office to use the office phone or his/her cell phone (obtained from the locker with staff permission). Parents may contact the office to leave messages for their child. If the phone is used in any illegal manner (including threats and bullying, improper video, sexting), there will be disciplinary actions and the parent(s) and possibly the police will be notified. Students with medical conditions requiring regular access to a cell phone may have their phone as long as there is documentation from a medical provider on file in the office.

**Tardies:** A student will be counted tardy if they are not over ten (10) minutes late to class. Students are afforded three tardies per class per marking period before being assigned a consequence. More than ten minutes late is considered an absence (skipping) for the class. Excused tardies will be allowed for specific reasons with an appropriate note at the time of the student's arrival.

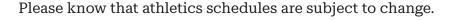
**Parking Lot:** (Diagram on next page) The entrance to the main parking lot will be off of Lewis Road. It will be one way (entrance only). Vehicles will then pull up to the sidewalk to let their student(s) out or

park in a parking spot. There will be a deemed crosswalk at the entrance of the school. Vehicles will be required to stop at the crosswalk. This will allow pedestrians to cross in this area safely. Vehicles will then exit the parking lot to Comet Lane. They will form two lanes as they exit: one turning left toward Lewis Rd. and one turning right toward the athletic fields/bus garage area.



# **Athletics Schedules**

Scan the QR code to the right with your phone camera or visit <a href="colemanschools.net/athletics">colemanschools.net/athletics</a> to view schedules, resources, team social media accounts and more! You can also connect your phone's calendar to our school schedule so events update automatically in your phone! Click the link on our website home page to set it up.

















#### **Back-to-School Information**



Visit our Back-to-School page on the website for:

- Classroom Supply Lists
- Links to the handbooks
- Calendars
- ...and more!



The first day of school this year is Tuesday, August 22nd, a full day for all students. School starts at 8:00 a.m. for both schools with the end time on full days at 2:50 p.m. for Jr/Sr High and 3:00 p.m. for Elementary students. All Wednesdays are Early Release or Half days and information can be found on the calendars included here and on our website.

# **Open House**

Our annual Open House for all K-12 students and families will take place on Monday, August 21st from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Elementary School and 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Jr/Sr High School. This is an opportunity for your child to see their friends, meet their teachers and receive their schedules and locker combinations. Food will be provided by the Coleman Lions Club and Coleman Faith United Methodist members, so you won't have to cook dinner. See you there!

# **Registering My Child**

If you are new to our area, currently homeschooling and interested in some of our programs, or interested in joining Coleman as your School of Choice, our secretaries and principals are happy to help get your child enrolled or answer any questions about Coleman Schools! Check out our website at www.colemanschools.net or our "ColemanComet" app, and visit our Enrollment page for videos, registration forms and an Inquiry Form you can fill out to ask questions or set up a tour with us.

Or, simply stop by one of our school offices to register your child. We look forward to having your family join our district!



Please bring the following with your registration paperwork:

- Child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- 2 proofs of residency with your correct name and current address
- Hearing/Vision screening (Kindergarten only)

# **Schools of Choice Applications**

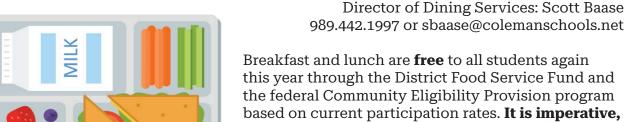
Under the Schools of Choice legislation (Section 105 and Section 105(c) of the School Aid Act), Kindergarten through twelfth grade students residing within Midland County Education Service Agency (MCESA) and contiguous intermediate school districts, may apply to Coleman Community Schools for enrollment by the first week of each semester of the 2023-2024 school year. Application may be made for all grades (K-12). Transportation for these students is the responsibility of the parents or guardians. Application must be made to the school district no later than the end of the first week of each semester. We would love to welcome you!

#### **Transportation & Busing**

Transportation Department Director: Michael Cowell 989.465.6811 or mcowell@auxilioservices.com.

- You should contact the Transportation Department: if your child requires bus transportation and did not receive transportation last year, if your home address has changed, if your child did not ride regularly last year, or if your child was newly enrolled and requires transportation.
- Bus assignments and times will be sent out by text and/or by e-mail using the district's routing software EZ Routing by August 18th, provided the student rode regularly last year or their information has been received by the department by August 11th; others will be routed within 48 hours of receipt of information
- Drivers will contact families with kindergarteners and new students prior to the start of school with pick-up times, drop-off times, and boarding procedures
- Students will have assigned seating
- When possible, loading the bus will occur back to front, and offloading the bus will occur front to back to maximize student safety
- Bus riders will not be allowed to ride to unassigned stops (e.g. Birthday parties, sleepovers, study groups etc.)
- Changes in a student's schedule from one assigned stop to another assigned stop will occur in accordance with the student handbook





however, that families still fill out the "Education **Benefits Form".** This is important whether or not you believe you qualify or would ever use it. A significant portion of our school funding (Title and At-Risk) is based on those who fill out the application. This

funding benefits our students via paraprofessional staffing, books, social work time, technology and other materials and resources. Student/family information is confidential, but the number of qualifying students is used by the Federal and State Government to determine funding for several of our grants. Thank you for helping us!

Please visit this link to view the Education Benefits form: <a href="https://5il.co/1g2k4">https://5il.co/1g2k4</a>. Please fill it out and submit it as soon as possible to ensure that Title & At-Risk funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students for things such as materials, support, programs, additional staffing, etc.





#### For Kids' Sake (and Safety's Sake) at CES

We need your help! Following these NEW procedures in the elementary parking lot and loop is one MAJOR step toward keeping everyone safe. Thank you in advance for your cooperation:

- 1. For morning drop-off and end-of-the-day pick-up (between 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 pm. daily) there is a one-way parking loop at the front of the elementary school:
- The **ONLY** entrance to the parking lot is from Washington Street (nearest intersection Washington/Barbour).
- Cars enter off of Washington Street, drop off at the curb, and then continue onto Shaffer Rd through the center portion of the parking lot, OR park in the loop end of the parking lot and walk their child to the building.
- The driveway off Shaffer Road is for exiting only (between 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 pm. daily). Please form two lanes a right turn and a left turn lane onto Shaffer Rd. as you exit the lot.
- Vehicles are not allowed to enter off of Shaffer Road at drop off/pick up time.
- Vehicles may not exit onto Washington Street at drop off/pick up time.
- 2. The **lane closest to the curb is for pick-up and drop-off only**, much like you see at the airport. At no time should an empty car be left in this curbside lane. If you plan to get out of your car for any reason, please park in a marked parking spot in the loop end of the parking lot and walk up to the building.
- 3. Please **do not** make a double lane along the curb. This is very dangerous for children, may cause an accident, and will block the flow of traffic. Please pull as far forward as possible before students exit your vehicle.
- 4. Students entering the parking lot and crossing in front of the traffic lane must be accompanied by an adult at both drop-off and pick-up time. Parents/siblings who park in a marked parking space must exit their vehicle, meet the elementary child, and then accompany the student safely to the sidewalk or to the vehicle.

Thank you in advance to all family and community members for following these directions! With your care and co-operation we can keep students safe as they arrive for or leave from their day of learning. If you have questions or concerns about details relating to the parking loop, please see Mrs. Araway in the elementary office.



### From the Desk of Mrs. Araway

# Cindy Araway, Elementary Principal caraway@colemanschools.net







Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at Coleman Elementary School. We are excitedly preparing (Be Proactive) for the return of our leaders - students, staff, and families. We can't wait to see you and hear your stories about your time away from school!

We hope that your family has been able to take some time over the summer months to relax, recharge, and rejuvenate (Sharpen the Saw) in preparation for all of the learning and fun that we have planned for the upcoming school year (Begin with the End in Mind). This year we are excited to introduce our newest Coleman Elementary team members. Please join us in extending a warm, friendly Coleman welcome to: Ms. Emma Dittenber (2nd grade), Mrs. Angela Knight (2nd grade), and Mr. Derek Booms (4th grade).

As a school community we pause to extend hearty Comet Congratulations to faculty members who recently moved on to retirement/other employment. Mrs. Margie Hintz retired in June 2023 along with Mrs. Rachel Brownlee, who has taken up a new career path alongside her family members. Together, Mrs. Hintz and Mrs. Brownlee served for more than 30 years at Coleman Community Schools. We are grateful for their many years of dedicated service, and we wish them well in their next steps in the journey of life!

We hope that you will join us for our annual open house Monday, August 21 from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please plan to pick up your Parent/Student Handbook at the front of the school on your way to visit classrooms, meet teachers, eat a light meal, and visit with providers who have information and prizes to share. Student class placements will be found on the front of each family's handbook, and class lists will be posted outside of each classroom.

School officially begins Tuesday, August 22 at 8:00 AM. Breakfast and lunch will be served on the first day of school, and again this year, breakfast and lunch are FREE to all Coleman Elementary students throughout the entire school year.

If you know of a child who lives in the Coleman school district and will be five years old before September 1, 2023, but who is not yet registered at Coleman Elementary, please encourage that child's adult to stop by the office to enroll right away (Put First Things First). The school office is open from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM weekdays, and staff is ready to serve you! Please call us at 989-465-6179 with questions.

Enjoy the final days of summer vacation (Sharpen the Saw)! We are looking forward to seeing you soon.

#### **SPARKS/Ignite**

Coleman Schools, in collaboration with the Clare-Gladwin RESD, is proud to announce we have received a 5-year grant to continue the SPARKS/Ignite Before and After-School program for grades 7-12. Students receive assistance with academics, homework and have the opportunity to participate in E-Sports. Athletes can take advantage of the program to help them stay on track with their classes and eligible to play.

The K-6 Elementary SPARKS Before and After-School program is also still in place. It provides handson activities, learning focused on literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) State standards while engaging the students' interests.

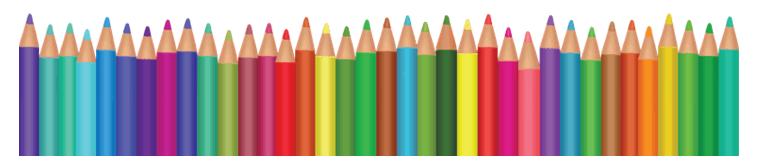
Both programs are FREE, provide snacks/dinner and transportation and run for 6 weeks during the summer as well. If you are interested in one of these programs for your child, contact your child's school office and they will put you in touch with the SPARKS/Ignite staff. Lea Cozat is the Coordinator of the program and she along with her staff, many of whom work for Coleman Schools, will ensure your child is safe, learning, and having a great time. Contact the school today!

#### **Kindergarten Top 10**



Want to help prepare your kindergartener (and yourself!) for the first day of school? Check out these tips!

- 10. Start talking to your child now about school. **Be happy and positive when you talk about school**. Start telling your child NOW how he/she will get to school and get home from school. Talk to your child about making friends, learning new skills, and having fun. This is your child's time to shine!
- 9. What can you do right now to help your child be ready for kindergarten? Start your child's school sleep schedule as soon as possible. Experts agree that five year olds need at least 10 hours of sleep each night. What time will your child need to wake up to be ready for school? **Start the early wake up and early to bed routine now** so your child has time to adjust before school begins.
- 8. End of the day pick up for kindergarten students is at 2:55 PM before older students in the school. Teachers walk kindergarten students to meet their families at 2:55 PM. (Except on Wednesdays when school releases at 2:00, so kindergarten pick up is at 1:55 PM).
- 7. **School releases at 3:00 PM.** Kindergarten bus riders are escorted to buses at the back of the building at 2:55.
- 6. **Students may eat hot lunch or bring a packed lunch from home each school day.** Students can buy milk at lunch time to go with their packed lunch. ALL Coleman Schools students receive FREE breakfast and lunch each school day no money required!
- 5. **Bring a backpack and a smile on the first day of school** (and maybe lunch if you are bringing lunch from home). No other supplies are required on the first day.
- 4. Breakfast is served (FREE!) every school day (unless there is a weather delay).
- 3. **Drop off for kindergarten is at the front of the elementary school under the blue awning at 7:55 a.m.** The lane closest to the curb is for drop off only. If you are walking your student to the line, please park in one of the marked spaces in the loop end of the front parking lot and escort your child to his/her class line. School buses drop off at the rear of the elementary building. For safety's sake, no vehicular traffic is allowed at the back of the building at the beginning nor the end of the school day.
- 2. **School starts Tuesday, August 22 at 8:00 AM.** Students may be dropped off at the front of the elementary building at 7:55 a.m. The first day of school is a full day for students.
- 1. **CES Open House is Monday, August 21, 2023 from 5:30-6:30 PM.** You're invited, and we hope you will attend! Families will have the option of a light meal, the opportunity to meet their child's teachers, chances to win prizes, and time to socialize with others at CES. We can't wait to see you!



# **November 2023 Bond Proposal**

# Help us maintain and prolong the life of our facilities!

After listening to community input at over 10 different meetings in the past 2 years, the Board of Education adjusted the upcoming bond proposal to include only the most crucial projects specific to the Jr/Sr High School.

The Coleman community has been a dedicated steward of the Jr/Sr High School building for nearly 50 years, maintaining and prolonging its life. To continue this work in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner, it is imperative that we update now for our current needs and to improve the school for future students. **Investing in the Jr/Sr High School benefits our community** by improving the facilities to better match neighboring districts, providing stronger safety measures, and greater instructional opportunities for our students. These investments help attract and retain students and families to Coleman and are attractive to highly qualified applicants, breathing new life into our community which can have a positive impact on property values and local business.



THE NOVEMBER 2023 PROPOSAL IS THE SAME AS THE MAY 2023 PROPOSAL

Items formerly part of the August 2021 Bond Proposal were removed to better reflect community feedback: REMOVED new auditorium, REMOVED new auxiliary gym, and REMOVED elementary school projects (although we will attempt to address the elementary projects in other ways)

PLEASE JOIN OUR COMMUNITY MEETINGS AT THE JR/SR HIGH MEDIA CENTER ON AUG. 28TH (6 PM), SEPT. 21 (6:30 PM), AND OCT. 9 (6:30 PM) TO ASK QUESTIONS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Safety - Instructional Excellence - Opportunity
An investment in your community!

Don't forget to VOTE on November 7th, or VOTE by Absentee Ballot starting September 28th!

#### Family Center Upcoming Programs & Events •

OUTDOOR YOGA Ages: Adults Date: Tuesdays thru Aug 29th, 6 - 7 pm Cost: \$8 Drop-In

FLAG FOOTBALL Ages: 3-9 Date: Sept 13-Oct 18, Games on Wednesdays 5 - 8 pm Cost: \$45

**TUMBLING 1 Ages:** 3-6 **Date:** Sept 19-Oct 24, 5:30 - 6:15 pm **Cost:** \$40

**BABY BALLET Ages:** 3-6 **Date:** Nov 8-Dec 20, 5:30 - 6:15 pm **Cost:** \$40

**TUMBLING 2 Ages:** 6-11 **Date:** Nov 8-Dec 20, 6:30 - 7:15 pm **Cost:** \$40

**VOLLEYBALL Ages:** 4th-6th grade **Date:** Sept 23-Oct 28, Saturday games **Cost:** \$300/team

HALLOWEEN PARTY Ages: All are welcome! Date: Oct 31, 5:00 - 7:00 pm Cost: FREE

CRAFT SHOW Date: Nov 5, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**YEAR-ROUND ON-SITE RESOURCES:** Coleman Community Market (Tue-Thu 12-6pm), Food Pantry (call ahead), Diaper Pantry, and Clothing Center

To register for any of these programs or events, please call (989) 465 - 2079 or email rdeshone@greatermidland.org

# **Job Opportunities** •

Visit our website to apply. Listed below are some of our current open positions:

- Varsity Boys Bowling Coach
- · Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
- Para-Professional

- Elementary Teacher
- STAR Advisor
- LEGO League advisor

Haven't done the job before but think you might be great at it? A little nervous about learning something new? We are willing to train for the right person!

"I appreciate the strong leadership and mentorship I receive, as well as encouragement and trust from my administration. I feel appreciated and valued at Coleman."
- Kirsten Torreano, Jr/Sr High Social Studies Teacher

#### **School-Based Health Center**

In collaboration with Mid Michigan Health, Coleman Schools will host a School-Based Health Center in the elementary school building during the school year and summer for all Coleman students. This provides a local option for parents and their children to see a Physician's Assistant/Nurse or Social Worker for appointments, or if the need moves beyond a school nurse's purview. More information will be shared with all students and parents once the clinic is up and running, anticipated to be sometime in the month of September 2023. The entire cost of the renovations and salaries are supported through a State grant at no cost to the district. Services to families are billed to insurance or are offered at no cost as well. Learn more at the upcoming school Open House!



Mrs. Weber, our School Nurse, will also return this year to assist families and staff. She provides support and training for health and wellness-related issues, monitors Health Care Plans and provides medical information to students, parents and staff alike.

#### "I NEED ICE! I NEED ICE! I NEED ICE!"

#### What do you call kids that love to spend time on the ice? Chill-dren



Many of you have probably seen your child come home with a note from me, whether it is because they are not feeling well or they were injured outside at recess. All of the children here at Coleman Community Schools are special to me and I love being able to care for them. On a typical day we hand out at MINIMUM 30 bags of ice for all of the ouchies that they experience. I would love if I could get some donations for snack-sized Ziploc baggies for ice, as we usually fly through them faster than we can supply them. Thank you so much for letting us care for your chill-dren and we appreciate all the donations!

- School Nurse, Mrs. Korin Weber

# **Coleman Community Schools**

2023-2024 School Year Start time 8:00 a.m.

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FD= First Day LD= Last Day C= Conferences 12-8/No School G= Graduation																					

Open Houses Aug. 21st: Elementary 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Jr./Sr. High 6:00-7:00 p.m.

#### **Board Members**

**President:** Lorie Fox

Vice President: Travis Aultman

Treasurer: Chris Blake
Secretary: Angela Brooks
Trustee: Jennifer Murray
Trustee: Nathan Clarke
Trustee: Joe Grabowski

Contact the Board directly anytime at board@colemanschools.net

#### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates**

August 14th\*
September 18th
October 16th
November 20th
December 18th
January 15th\*\*
February 19th\*\*

March 18th\*\*

Most meetings will take place in the **Jr/Sr High Auditorium at 6:30 pm.**\*August meeting will be held

in the Board Office

\*\*Tentative

All Board Meetings are accessible to the public. Agendas and minutes are always viewable on the Board of Education page on the school website.

# ADMINISTRATION OFFICE 4823 N. Coleman Schools Dr.

MDMINISTRATION OF	102 1029 110 00		
<b>Hours:</b> M-Th 8 - 4	<b>Phone:</b> (989) 465-6	060 / (989) 465-1891	<b>Fax:</b> (989) 465-9853
Superintendent/Special Ed Board/Superintendent Ada Business Manager: Sara He Payroll/Benefits Specialist Community Relations Spec	ninistrative Assist gel	ant: Kerry Berthume k	
AGRISCIENCE BUILDI	NG 4858 N. Co	leman Schools Dr	•
Instructors: Eric Fischer &	Marie Zwemmer		(989) 465-1891 x2700
CULINARY BUILDING Instructor: Chef Matthew F			(989) 442-4116
BUS GARAGE 5200 Transportation Supervisor Maintenance/Custodial Su			
Construction of the constr	agh Friday 7:30 am - (989) 465-9854 / <b>Sp</b> ejoy	ecial Education Fax:	(989) 465-9861 x2252 x2200

# JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL 7th-12th 4951 N. Lewis Rd.

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

 $\textbf{Sr High Phone:} \ (989) \ 465-6171 \ / \ \textbf{Jr High Phone:} \ (989) \ 465-6177 \ / \ \textbf{Fax:} \ (989) \ 465-9222$ 

Principal: Jennifer Hessx2451Head Secretary: Nancy Sianx2400Athletic Secretary: Laurie Bellx2300